

2 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Request of Representative Ogden Reid for Verification of  
Limited Fact Statements on Vietnam

1. In response to his telephone request I met with Representative Ogden Reid in his office at 12:45 p.m. on 1 August. In opening the conversation I advised it would be necessary for me to relay such questions as he might have to appropriate Agency offices and to get the answers back to him. Due to his obvious press for time I made no further explanation and Representative Reid did not question the procedure.

2. Representative Reid advised that he was drafting a letter that he hoped to dispatch within an hour or two and that it contained certain fact statements about Vietnam which he desired to verify. He indicated that he had received the information from the Agency and from the Department of Defense, most recently from conversations with [redacted] of OSI, yesterday afternoon, and after talking to [redacted] from Phil Goulding in Secretary Clifford's office. Representative Reid made specific mention of the fact that in the use of intelligence fact material such as in this letter he feels it most important that facts be correctly stated, and that he "never makes mention of contact on such matters with the Agency." Representative Reid did not identify the intended use of the letter but the impression was given by his Administrative Assistant, Carol Tuchmann, that it was a constituent newsletter.

3. Verification of the following statements was requested:

- a) there has been a drop in the rate of infiltration into South Vietnam;
- b) North Vietnam has drawn back some 40,000 first line troops; and
- c) there has been a sharp reduction in the irresponsible terrorist attacks. (Here Representative Reid noted he intended to cite a 23 July Hanoi Radio broadcast which called attention to the fact that rocket attacks on Saigon had not taken place during recent negotiations.)

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4. I talked to [ ] and relayed Representative Reid's request. After conferring with Mr. Edward Proctor, Mr. [ ] advised that in keeping with the Director's caveats of this morning it is the DDI feeling that the Agency should not comment on these statements. I contacted Mr. Maury who advised that he would touch base with the Director for further guidance. I recontacted Mr. Reid who was waiting for my call, but was unable to dissuade him from his original request.

5. After talking to the Director Mr. Maury advised in effect that although the statements are factually correct as far as they go, they encompass only a part of the picture, and that the President's release of yesterday afternoon covered a much broader range of facts for his consideration.

6. In my final conversation with Mr. Reid he advised that he had deleted the numbers from the statements in his final draft and was stating in effect:

- a) there had been some troop pull back;
- b) there had been some reduction in forces by the North Vietnamese; and
- c) there had been an apparent lull in terrorist attacks.

Our conversation ended on a very pleasant note with Representative Reid indicating that he understood the inherent difficulties in Vietnam comments at this time, but that he felt it paramount that he not misstate facts used in his publication. He again thanked me for our assistance.

[ ]  
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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